



CARE Checklist – 2016: Information for writing a case report

Topic	Item	Checklist item description	Line/Page
Title	1	The words “case report” should be in the title along with the area of focus	4-5/1
Key Words	2	Four to seven key words—include “case report” as one of the key words	18-19/3
Abstract	3a	Background: What does this case report add to the medical literature?	6-8/3
	3b	Case summary: chief complaint, diagnoses, interventions, and outcomes	10-13/3
	3c	Conclusion: What is the main “take-away” lesson from this case?	15-17/3
Introduction	4	The current standard of care and contributions of this case—with references (1-2 paragraphs)	page 7-9
Timeline	5	Information from this case report organized into a timeline (table or figure)	page 12
Patient Information	6a	De-identified demographic and other patient or client specific information	3-6/5
	6b	Chief complaint—what prompted this visit?	19-21/4
	6c	Relevant history including past interventions and outcomes	22-28/4
Physical Exam	7	Relevant physical examination findings	8-9/5
Diagnostic Assessment	8a	Evaluations such as surveys, laboratory testing, imaging, etc.	10-21/5
	8b	Diagnostic reasoning including other diagnoses considered and challenges	23/5
	8c	Consider tables or figures linking assessment, diagnoses and interventions	11-19/5
	8d	Prognostic characteristics where applicable	10-12/6
Interventions	9a	Types such as life-style recommendations, treatments, medications, surgery	1-12/6
	9b	Intervention administration such as dosage, frequency and duration	1-12/6
	9c	Note changes in intervention with explanation	9-12/6
	9d	Other concurrent interventions	9-12/6
Follow-up and Outcomes	10a	Clinician assessment (and patient or client assessed outcomes when appropriate)	10/6
	10b	Important follow-up diagnostic evaluations	10-13/6
	10c	Assessment of intervention adherence and tolerability, including adverse events	4-7/6
Discussion	11a	Strengths and limitations in your approach to this case	14-15/6
	11b	Specify how this case report informs practice or Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG)	12-15/7
	11c	How does this case report suggest a testable hypothesis?	4-6/7
	11d	Conclusions and rationale	16-20/7
Patient Perspective	12	When appropriate include the assessment of the patient or client on this episode of care	7-8/6
Informed Consent	13	Informed consent from the person who is the subject of this case report is required by most journals	2-3/10
Additional Information	14	Acknowledgement section; Competing Interests; IRB approval when required	4-10